(XXXIII YEAR.) THE (No 1681.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE. 331

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1777.

LONDON, *August 7.*

IT is confidently reported, that on a late ſolicitation from our miniſtry to the empreſs of Ruſſia, for hiring a certain number of her troops to fight againſt our rebellious ſubjects in America, the empreſs made the following reply to the negotiator "That if government would make over the iſland of Minorca to her, ſhe would ſend 30,000 men to ſubdue the Americans, and at her ſole expence maintain and recruit them for two years." This propoſal, if accepted of, by adding Minorca to her poſſeſſions in the Black ſea, and their free navigation in the Archipelago, would throw the whole Mediterranean and Levant trade into her hands, and make her the firſt maritime power in Europe.

FISHKILL, *October 30.*

The enemy have evacuated the forts Conſtitution, Montgomery and Clinton, deſtroyed the barracks and houſes; they endeavoured to burn the ramparts, but the late rains extinguiſhed the fire, without doing them much hurt. 'Tis ſaid they did not carry off the cannon, but threw them in the river.

LANCASTER, *November 10.*

We are aſſured from York town, where congreſs now ſit, that Indian affairs at no time, were in a more promiſing way. Through the interpoſition of congreſs, Rattle-trap and Turkey's-tail were ſent by numerous tribes of the ſouthern Indians to their northern brethren. Gen. Schuyler had adviſed that 140 of them had joined gen. Gates, and that more might be expected. This laſt circumſtance had doubtleſs been in conſequence of the important blow given the ſavages near fort Schuyler, by the brave, but unfortunate gen. Herkimer, who headed the intrepid militia of New-York ſtate, and of the ſignal victory ſoon after gained by the formidable militia of New-Hampſhire, led by that hardy ſoldier, gen. Stark, aſſiſted by the gallant colonels Warner, Brown, and ſome continental troops.

The ſurrender of gen. Burgoyne and his whole remaining army, muſt determine the Indians, who have been under Britiſh influence, diſtreſſing and maſſacreing the frontier inhabitants, to ſue for pardon and peace.

We muſt not omit, that the tribe of St. Francis, in the neighbourhood of Canada, have deſired protection for their families, and liberty to remove to Connecticut.

The ſtate of the Maſſachuſetts-Bay in New-England, has ordered taxes to be levied, to bring into the treaſury in one year 455,000l. lawful money, or 568,000l. 15s. Pennſylvania currency.

At the late ſitting of the legiſlature of Pennſylvania, at this town, an annual tax of five ſhilling in the pound, was directed to be laid on all eſtates real and perſonal, for the purpoſe of ſinking the paper money.

By accounts from the eaſtward, we find that the enemy, in their late irruption into the ſtate of New-York, had committed great devaſtation, in burning farmers and gentlemens houſes, particularly that ſeat of the widow of the great gen. Montgomery. The ſame town of Elopus, or Kingſton, ſuffered the ſame horrid deſtruction. How barbarous ſuch proceedings! They mark how deſperate the enemy conſider their cauſe.

IN CONGRESS, *October 6, 1777.*

Reſolved, That the drawing of the United States lottery be deferred until the 6th day of January next, on account of the unſettled ſtate of the commonwealth of Pennſylvania, occaſioned by the invaſion of the enemy; and that the managers of the ſaid lottery give notice thereof, by advertiſement, in the news papers of the ſeveral ſtates.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, ſec.

The printers in the different ſtates are requeſted to publiſh the above.

2 o'clock Red Bank, Oct. 23, 1777.

SIR,

I AM juſt arrived at this place, on command, from Fort Mifflin, and finding that col. Green, and the commodore were ſending, by expreſs to your excellency, the glorious event of laſt evening, and this morning, think proper to give you the particulars from our garriſon. This morning, at half after ſix o'clock, the enemy, from Province iſland, began a very heavy fire from their bomb-batteries, and in about half an hour after was joined by their fleet, which kept up on us inceſſantly, till after 12 o'clock. Our battery, in concert with the commodore's fleet, playing on them the whole time, in ſhort we ply'd them with 18 and 32 pound ſhot ſo cloſely, that they, I believe, began to give ground; however, they ran a 64 gun ſhip and a 20 gun frigate aground, and after fruitleſs attempts to get them off, they ſet fire to them both. We ſuſtained no damage, except a captain and a private ſlightly wounded. Our garriſon ſhewed a firmneſs and reſolution becoming brave men, and I don't doubt will acquit themſelves with honour. The fleet are making down again faſt, as low as Billings Port.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ROBERT BALLARD.

His excellency gen. Waſhington.

Publiſhed by order of Congreſs,

CHARLES THOMSON, ſec.

To the PRINTER, at LANCASTER.

SIR,

Pleaſe to make the following public, and you will oblige many of your friends, &c.

I am, ſir, your's, &c.

A Lover of Juſtice.

Head-Quarters, White Marſh, Nov. 1, 1777.

A general court-martial, of which general Sullivan was preſident, was held the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 30th of October laſt, for the trial of general Wayne, on the following charge, viz.

"That he had timely notice of the enemy's intention to attack the troops under his command, on the night of the 20th of September laſt, and notwithſtanding that intelligence, neglected making a diſpoſition until it was too late, either to annoy the enemy, or make a retreat without the utmoſt danger and confuſion;" upon which the court pronounced the following ſentence."

The court having fully conſidered the charge againſt brigadier general Wayne, and the evidence produced to them, are unanimouſly of opinion, that gen. Wayne is not guilty of the charge exhibited againſt him; but that he on the night of the 20th ultimo (that is of September) did every thing that could be expected from an active, brave and vigilant officer, under the orders he then had. The court do acquit him with the higheſt honour.

The commander in chief approves the ſentence.

The action of that night has cauſed much ſpeculation, the tongue of ſlander has not been idle. However ſanguine ſome gentlemen were in their attempt to detract from the merits of the general, and his faithful officers and ſoldiers (who with unparelelled bravery ſtood the bayonet of the enemy, ſaved all the artillery, and in the face of every difficulty and danger, effected an honourable retreat, with the loſs of no more than 160 men killed, wounded, and taken) yet they find themſelves egregiouſly diſappointed.

BALTIMORE, *November 18.*

From the Antigua gazette of October the 8th, we have extracted the following.

A relation of the taking of the iſland of St. Catharine, by the Spaniſh army, under the command of the captain general Don Pedro de Cevallos, extracted from authentic letters from Madrid, dated June 6, 1777.

"Our fleet, conſiſting of about 120 ſail, left Cadiz the 13th of November, 1776, and after a moſt happy paſſage found themſelves on the 8th of February, in 26 degrees N. lat. and 337 degrees 14 minutes longitude, when they took a Portugueſe merchant ſhip, called the Lucia a Fortunada, bound from Rio Janeiro to Liſbon, on board which they found letters, which informed them, that four ſhips of war and five frigates, were placed in the bay of Garupa to obſerve and attack us, if we ſhould enter the port of St. Catharines, in conſequence of which we reſolved to ſail for that place, in order to attack them.

No ſooner had we diſcovered the iſland of St. Catharine, on February the 10th, and had doubled the cape of the bay of Garupa, than our frigate St. Margaret informed us that ſhe had ſeen the enemy's ſquadron, conſiſting of twelve ſail, for two days. On this information, our general Don Cevallos, and the marquis of Caſa-Tilly, commander of the ſquadron, having deliberated, they judged it more proper to enter the port of the iſland than to purſue their ſquadron, which they accordingly entered on February the 20th, excepting a few tranſport veſſels, on board of which there were 1400 men, which we ſuppoſed had made for Monte Video, the place of general rendezvous.

The Portugueſe forces in garriſon, on the iſland, were much more conſiderable than uſual; independent of four battalions of troops, and 200 artillery, they had regimented the militia, ſo that the force was not leſs than 4000 men, excluſive what they called auxiliaries, and the inhabitants of the iſland who were to aſſiſt in defending the caſtle, and the ſtrong forts of St. Croix and Punta Groſa, very ſtrongly ſituated by nature and art, and well provided with proviſions and ammunition.

When the place had been reconnoitred, the army was debarked the 22d at night. Next day we occupied the camp near, within cannon ſhot of Punta Groſa, while the eptentrion and two bomb veſſels approached the caſtle. In the night a body of troops was detached towards the left, and diſpoſitions were made for our army to take poſſeſſion of the heights, which the governor ſeeing, and the Portugueſe being intimidated at firing a gun and retired to a ſtrong advanced work, but with ſuch precipitation that they left all their cannon and ſtores, and every proviſion for a long ſiege.

The Portugueſe troops in St. Croix, ſeeing the caſtel abandoned, and a body of Spaniards marched towards them, took a like reſolution with other Portugueſe troops, and abandoned it, with their entrenchments and batteries ſo that the whole iſland was evacuated on the 25th. And having paſſed over to the continent, and croſſed the river Catabon, about ſeven or eight leagues from the iſland, their commander in chief, Don Antonio Carlas Hartado de Mendoza, ſent brigadier Don Joſeph Cuſtodus de Say Faria, with orders to propoſe to our commander Don Cevallos, to grant them ſhips to tranſport them to Rio Janeiro, but this he refuſed to conſent to, and inſiſted they ſhould make themſelves priſoners of war; which after ſome meſſages paſſing, they agreed, and ſhips were allowed to tranſport officers only to Rio Janeiro, on promiſe of not ſerving in any manner againſt his catholic majeſty, and to render themſelves to any other place when called on by the Spaniſh general. Since which all the Portugueſe ſoldiers have been ſent to Buenos Ayres and nothing remains on the iſland belonging to the crown of Portugal.

ANNAPOLIS.

An act of the General Aſſembly of Maryland, entitled, *An act to procure cloathing for the quota of this ſtate of the* American *army.*

WHEREAS it is abſolutely neceſſary to provide cloathing for our quota of troops now or hereafter to be raiſed:

Be it enacted, That the governor and the council be and are hereby authoriſed and empowered to appoint a proper and diſcreet perſon in each county to purchaſe, at ſuch liberal prices as they ſhall limit, blankets, ſhoes, ſtockings, hats, coarſe woollens, with proper trimmings and linen, and any other cloathing fit for ſoldiers; that the perſons ſo nominated and appointed have power to appoint aſſiſtants.

And be it enacted, That a certificate, ſigned by the principal, or by the aſſiſtant and counterſigned by the principal, expreſſing the number or quantity, and price or value of the articles purchaſed, be given to the owner, which value ſhall be aſcertained either by agreement or by the oath of ſome indifferent and reputable perſon, to be called in and ſworn by the principal or aſſiſtant, who are hereby authoriſed and empowered to adminiſter ſuch oath.

And be it enacted, That the principal or aſſiſtant may require any perſon to give an account on oath, or affirmation if a quaker, menoniſt or dunker, of ſuch of the aforeſaid articles as he or ſhe hath in his or her poſſeſſion, and ſhall be requeſted to ſell; and if any perſon ſo requeſted ſhall refuſe to give ſuch account on oath, or affirmation, if a quaker, menoniſt, or dunker, he or ſhe ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum of five hundred pounds common money.

And be it enacted, That the ſaid principal or aſſiſtant ſhall, and they are hereby directed to give information to ſuch county court, of all ſuch perſons who ſhall refuſe as aforeſaid, under the penalty of five pounds for every neglect.

And be it enacted, That if the owner of any of the articles above ſpecified on oath or affirmation, ſhall refuſe to ſpare ſuch part thereof as the principal or aſſiſtant may think may be ſpared without diſtreſs to the family of the perſon ſo refuſing; the principal or his aſſiſtant ſhall ſummon two indifferent and reputable neighbours (who in caſe of diſagreement ſhall call in a third) to determine on oath as well the value, as what of the aforeſaid articles ſuch perſon can ſpare, without diſtreſſing ſuch perſon, his or her family: And the principal or aſſiſtant may take the articles ſo aſcertained and valued, giving a certificate as aforeſaid therefor.

And be it enacted, That all certificates as aforeſaid ſhall be paid by either of the treaſurers, or diſcounted by the ſheriff of the county, out of the public aſſeſſment due from the perſons to whom certificates ſhall be given.

And be it enacted, That each aſſiſtant ſhall return a fair and exact liſt of all articles by him purchaſed or taken, and the perſons from whom purchaſed or taken, to his principal, who ſhall with all convenient ſpeed tranſmit the ſame to the governor and the council.

And be it enacted, That the perſon appointed in each county be allowed ſeven and an half per centum on the value of the things obtained in his county, and a reaſonable allowance for conveying them to ſuch place as the governor and the council ſhall direct.

And be it enacted, That if any perſon choſen principal to execute this law, ſhall refuſe or neglect to act as ſuch, he ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum of fifty pounds common money for ſuch refuſal or neglect.

And be it enacted, That tavern keepers, or thoſe who keep houſe for the purpoſe of taking in lodgers, ſhall not be obliged to furniſh any blankets to the principal or aſſiſtants beforementioned, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Annapolis, Nov. 26, 1777.

BACON's LAWS of MARYLAND, to be ſold by JOSEPH DOWSON.
3w

TO BE LET,

MY PLANTATION and NEGROES, near Annapolis.

tf ELISABETH BORDLEY.

Herring Bay, October 28, 1777.

To be SOLD by the ſubſcriber,

A LARGE imported Engliſh BULL, near fourteen hands high, remarkable for getting fine calves, and his breed noted for milk. Any perſon willing to purchaſe is deſired to apply to

RICHARD CHEW.

3w

WILLIAM LEIGH of Charles county, has a negro man carpenter to hire, by the month or year, for tobacco or money; if a ſtranger wants ſuch a one, he muſt come recommended to be a noted good maſter and good pay. 10 0 3/6 w3